



**UNFINISHED FURNITURE**

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1. The work environment should have good light and ventilation and should not be too cold (ideally above 50°) or too damp.
2. Remove all hardware; look for nail holes that should be filled, excess glue that should be removed, a crack that should be tended to or any other problems that need attention. If you are unsure of what to do, give us a call at this point; do not proceed.
3. Prepare the furniture by lightly sanding in the direction of the grain with #180 sandpaper or sanding block. If you are working on a piece that is unassembled, please make sure it fits together properly before you continue with the finishing process. It may be to your advantage to disassemble it again because it may be easier to finish this way.
4. Dust off the furniture with a tack cloth or using a vacuum or a blower (avoid using a tack cloth when using water based finishes). You will always want to work on a dust free piece. Before you proceed with staining, you should TEST the color on a safe spot to make sure the color is what you expect before you do the whole piece. You can apply the stain according to label directions. Use either a lint free rag or a foam brush. Start on the inside or underside of the piece and work your way out. Apply the stain in the direction of the grain. Let dry according to the label directions. A second coat of stain is a personal decision. Again, TEST it on a safe spot.
5. After your staining is done and dry, you will be putting on thin layers of a final finish. Polyurethane comes in three different sheens: satin, semi-gloss and gloss. Lightly buff with #320 or finer grit sandpaper or buff with a fine 3M abrasive pad between each layer of poly, removing the dust and finishing with a final coat of poly. Do not buff the final coat. You may decide to use an oil finish instead. Whichever you choose, follow label directions. Be sure to apply thin, even coats as you will achieve better results by putting more coats on than trying to use fewer heavy coats. These are generally not self-leveling products and so must be brushed out.
6. You are done! Stand back and admire what you have just accomplished. Now, onto the next piece...